

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI ARRIVES IN RIYADH



On the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, President Isaias Afwerki arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in the late morning hours yesterday for a four-day working visit.

Upon arrival at the Riyadh

Airport Royal Terminal, President Isaias and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome. The welcoming ceremony was attended by Ms. Weini Gerezgihier, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Meshal Hamdan Alrogi, Ambassador of

Saudi Arabia to Eritrea.

President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation will meet Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, as well as other senior officials, during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, focusing

on enhancing bilateral ties of cooperation and partnership, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The Presidential delegation included Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

WORLD SOIL PRODUCTIVITY DAY OBSERVED

World Soil Productivity Day was observed in Halhale at the national level on 5 November under the theme "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities." Mr. Tsegay Berhane, Head of the National Agricultural Research, called for greater public awareness and understanding.

Ms. Ariella Glinni, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Eritrea, noted that pressure on soil and water in Eritrea from urban expansion, land use, and climate change is considerable and called for sustainable awareness-raising efforts to enhance public understanding.

At the event, experts presented research papers on the role of compost fertilizer in soil health, the importance of soil and water conservation in boosting agricultural productivity, the effects of farm chemicals on soil health, and related topics. The participants, for their part, conducted extensive discussions on the research papers presented.

Short videos on World Soil Productivity Day, as well as demonstrations of soil and compost fertilizers, were also presented at the event.

MENDEFERA SCHOOL OF ASSISTANT NURSING GRADUATES STUDENTS



Mendefera School of Assistant Nursing has graduated 25 barefoot doctors, including 17 females, on 6 December.

Mr. Bereket Fesehaye, Director of the school, indicating that the graduates were from the Southern, Central, and Southern Red Sea Regions, said that they have successfully completed the theoretical and practical training provided over the past six months.

Commending the training opportunity they were given, the graduates expressed their conviction to diligently serve the people with the knowledge they gained from the program.

Dr. Berhane Debru, Director

General of Policy, Planning, and Human Resources Development at the Ministry of Health, noting that the expansion of health facilities at the national level has reached 80%, said that earnest efforts are being exerted to provide health care services to residents living in remote areas through barefoot doctors.

Indicating that the barefoot doctors who graduated in previous rounds are providing commendable health care services in their places of assignment, Dr. Berhane said that they are especially contributing significantly to the prevention of communicable diseases.

Mendefera School of Assistant Nursing has so far graduated 87 barefoot doctors.

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI MET SPECIAL ENVOY OF CHINA

President Isaias Afwerki met on Monday in Adi Halo with a Chinese delegation led by Mr. Hu Changchun, China's Special Envoy for Horn of Africa Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

At the meeting, President Isaias emphasized the imperative for China to foster constructive engagement with Africa and to strengthen capacity-building in these crucial times of global change, without being encumbered by a purely competitive perspective.

President Isaias further noted China's potential role in contributing to the resolution of conflicts in the Horn of Africa, which are often fomented and exacerbated by the intervention of major external powers. He also affirmed that Eritrea will strive to consolidate the warm, 70-year-old, all-rounded bilateral ties with China.

Mr. Hu Changchun conveyed President Xi Jinping's goodwill message to President Isaias

Afwerki and reaffirmed China's readiness to deepen its strategic partnership with Eritrea. The Special Envoy further elaborated that China will reinforce its cooperation with Africa, anchored in capacity building and self-reliance. He also reaffirmed China's stance that mutual respect relies on upholding sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



OPINION & ANALYSIS

By: Dr. Weldu Ghebreselassie

Since Ethiopia set foot in Eritrea in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War – under the mantle of a bogus “Federal Arrangement” and later through outright annexation – the Horn of Africa has known little peace.

Ethiopia’s historical disposition for regional destabilization is closely intertwined with its intermittent obsession with acquiring “sovereign access to the Red Sea”, often couched in the rhetoric of “reunification,” its proclivity to serve as a pliable proxy for external patrons, and its deeply flawed domestic governance anchored on perennial ethnic polarization and strife.

Ethiopia’s enduring fixation on maritime access dates back to the early 20th century. Indeed, in the late 1920s, the fledgling Ethiopian empire attempted to annex Zeila, in present-day Somalia. Failure to achieve this ambition prompted the Haileselassie regime to pivot and focus on Eritrea; illegal and absurd as these claims were. The result was the 1952 imposed “Federation” of Eritrea with Ethiopia, followed by annexation in 1962, which ignited the 30-year Eritrean war of independence. Ethiopia’s insatiable ambitions of sovereign access to the sea also nudged the Haileselassie regime to push unsuccessful claims on, and incorporation of, Djibouti in 1967, prior to its independence.

Even after independence and

Imperative of Paradigm Shift for Enduring Regional Peace and Stability

as Eritrea continued to exert, in good faith, unreserved efforts to cultivate and consolidate strong ties of friendship and cooperation with the new government in Ethiopia, the “sovereign sea access” agenda seems to have been pursued by the latter; although this time round, the approach was in a rather stealthy and discreet manner.

Indeed, when the EPRDF regime declared war through its Parliament in early May 1998 under the pretext of a “border dispute regarding the small town of Badme and its environs”, the underlying maximalist agenda was in fact invasion and occupation of the Eritrean port of Assab. In the early weeks of the war, the then Deputy Foreign Minister of Ethiopia – who was also a senior official at the Foreign Ministry in the Mengistu years – publicly divulged to a gathering of the Ethiopian community in Washington that “capturing Assab was one of the central objectives of the war”.

During the 3rd Offensive that the Ethiopian regime launched in May 2000, the round of US-EU simultaneous negotiations that were being conducted in Algiers were interrupted by the regime as its army launched a massive military assault on Assab on 11 June 2000. Ethiopia signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 18 June 2000 only after, and because of, this military debacle.

Furthermore, even as early as 1996, and when the ties between Eritrea and the new EPRDF government were close, General Tsadkan’s thesis in his long-distance law degree centered, as he later confessed, on legal and academic justification for severing the Port of Assab for “incorporation into Ethiopia”.

In a nutshell, Ethiopia’s territorial and maritime wars of ambition before and after Eritrea’s independence were key factors of perennial destabilization in the Horn of Africa, causing massive and avoidable human and humanitarian devastation.

The machinations of the Ethiopian regime went further to drive a wedge and embroil Eritrea in some conflict with Djibouti. A Cable released by WikiLeaks on 14 September 2008 revealed

that the putative Eritrea–Djibouti border dispute that flared up in June 2008 was in fact deliberately concocted by Ethiopia and its patrons in Washington as a sinister pretext for Djibouti to cut ties with Eritrea for purposes of negative portrayal and diplomatic isolation of Eritrea. As it happened, Susan Rice, the then US Ambassador to the UN, tabled a resolution against Eritrea at the UNSC. This maneuver exposed how a relatively non-existent border issue was manufactured to justify broader geopolitical agendas of Ethiopia and its external patrons.

In the same vein, the Ethiopian regime invaded Somalia in 2006 under the rubric of combatting Al-Shebaab extremism, primarily in order to curry favour with Washington. The misguided policy was premised on the tenuous portrayal of Somalia by the Obama Administration as the “new epicenter of fundamental Islamic terrorism with organic links to Al-Qaeda”.

The intervention however proved counterproductive: it destabilized Somalia further, energized Somali resistance, reignited irredentist sentiments, and served Ethiopia’s long-standing aim of weakening Somalia.

The Obama and Biden Administration’s vitriolic portrayal of Eritrea as an obstacle to regional stability, especially regarding Somalia, contributed to the imposition of U.S. and UN sanctions on Eritrea. And in characteristic fashion, the Ethiopian regime played its surrogate role in the whole charade.

Through UNSC Resolution 1907 (2009) and Resolution 2023 (2011), Eritrea faced an arms embargo, travel ban, and asset freeze based on spurious allegations of its support to al-Shabaab. Eritrea vehemently rejected the politically motivated sanctions. Nonetheless, in forums where controversies are not adjudicated on the basis of legality and fairness but on overriding political horse-trading and other narrow interests, its protests were not heeded for almost a full decade. Ultimately, however, even the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group admitted it found no evidence of Eritrean support for al-Shabaab.

And as it happened, the UN Security Council belatedly lifted the sanctions on 14 November 2018, marking what many viewed as the beginning of a new era for regional cooperation in the Horn.

In spite of this backdrop of external adversity, Eritrea has, from the outset and consistently, upheld the principle that conflicts should be resolved through local and regional mechanisms. It assisted in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan. Eritrea further played a crucial role in the crystallization of the 2006 Asmara Peace Accord between the Sudanese Government and opposition groups in Eastern Sudan; contributed to reconciliation between Chad and Sudan; and, supported efforts to address the Darfur conflict. These significant endeavours highlight Eritrea’s longstanding commitment to regional stability and constructive cooperation.

The second half of 2018 was, by all standards, a watershed moment in the turbulent history between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The new government that came to power in Ethiopia publicly announced its desire for peace and readiness to respect its international obligations and implement the EEBC Award of 13 April 2002. This gesture paved the way for reconciliation and the signature in Asmara, on 9 July 2018, of the Five-point Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between the

two countries.

Unfortunately, and in spite of the euphoria and optimism that the new reality had engendered in both countries and the wider Horn of Africa region, the Prosperity Party (aka Potemkin Party) resorted, in 2023, to the old agenda of its predecessors to instigate unwarranted tension and conflict with its neighbor. In flagrant breach of the cardinal spirit of Article I of the Joint Declaration, which heralded that “the state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has come to an end; a new era of peace and friendship has been opened”, Ethiopia’s Prime Minister announced to his Parliament and a perplexed international community that his regime will pursue “sovereign access to the sea, through peaceful means if possible, and force if necessary”.

This toxic position was announced barely five years after the Peace Agreement and soon after the end of the war in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

As it became public knowledge later, the Prosperity Party’s covetous attitude towards Eritrea’s maritime sovereignty had emerged even during the Tigray war. At a secret meeting between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the TPLF, facilitated by the Biden Administration in Seychelles in March 2021, the PP

Continued on page 5

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Dec 7

The symptoms of desperation and war psychosis, bordering on insanity, within the tight circle of Potemkin Party mouthpieces (Horn Review et al), zealots and trolls seems to have dipped to a new low these days.

Revisionist history recycled ad nauseum; banal postulates on the robust legal basis and dynamics of Eritrea's independence; and wholesale defamatory assault on its developmental principles and trajectory have not produced any PR dividends for the Potemkin Party in its toxic agenda of regional destabilization cloaked under the mantle of "sovereign access to the sea".

In this vein, the despicable campaign they are peddling these days is to scoff at, and desecrate, some of Eritrea's heroes who passed away at respectable ages after accomplishing the highest missions in their lives.

In the feeble and perverted minds of PP zealots, these natural events are misconstrued as "some opportunity"; oblivious as they are to the patriotic fervor of the Warsai Generation who has long inherited the legacy/torch of liberation and proven its mettle in protecting and safeguarding Eritrea's inviolable sovereignty and territorial integrity. ኢብ ነዊሕ መደረ ከይሓቶና፣ "ነፃይ ናይ ልቡ ይሓልም" እዩ ኢተ ነገሩ!



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SpotLight

Bridging Distance and Improving Health Outcomes

Bana Negusse

Maternity waiting homes (MWHs) may appear modest, yet they represent one of the most cost-effective and transformative approaches in global maternal and newborn health. Far from being a new idea, they have existed for decades under various names – from maternity waiting areas or mothers' shelters to antenatal villages, among others – but their purpose has remained consistent: to provide pregnant women with a safe, comfortable residential space near health facilities before labor begins. By reducing distance, delay, and danger, they function as a vital bridge between pregnancy and skilled delivery, particularly in countries where geographic and infrastructural barriers pose considerable risks.

Eritrea offers a compelling example of how strategically deployed MWHs can reshape a national health landscape. Introduced in 2007 to better support women living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, these



mosquito nets to protect mothers and infants. After delivery, the homes offer women a safe place to recover, access follow-up care, and receive guidance during the postpartum period. Through these combined functions, MWHs reinforce continuity of care and significantly improve maternal and newborn health outcomes.

The cumulative effect has been striking. Eritrea's maternal mortality ratio has fallen from an estimated 998 per 100,000

percent, placing it among the fastest in the world. These achievements, to which MWHs have contributed significantly, have distinguished Eritrea across the continent and laid a strong foundation for further progress.

The continued expansion and strengthening of MWHs also reflect Eritrea's steady cooperation with a small number of longstanding international partners. Rather than broad or heavily donor-driven engagement, these partnerships are built on mutual trust and respect, and a shared focus on addressing specific gaps where external financial or technical support can make a meaningful difference. This pragmatic model, rooted in national ownership and selective collaboration, has helped enhance service delivery and quality without compromising local priorities. At a moment when global financing for health is contracting, and many countries face setbacks due to unpredictable donor commitments, Eritrea's experience offers a noteworthy example of how focused, reliable, and well-aligned cooperation can achieve lasting impact.

Equally significant is what MWHs represent beyond their health functions. As free and universally accessible facilities, they embody Eritrea's



facilities have steadily evolved into an essential component of the country's continuum of maternal and newborn care. Today, approximately 50 homes are distributed nationwide, each providing women with a secure environment in which they can rest, receive timely antenatal services, and prepare for childbirth without the strain of long or hazardous travel. They provide essential health education – such as nutrition and newborn care and recognizing danger signs during pregnancy – while also fostering social, emotional, and cultural support networks among women who often face similar challenges.

In malaria-endemic regions, MWHs extend their impact further: local health personnel provide preventive medications and distribute insecticide-treated

live births in 1990 – which was one of the highest rates globally – to fewer than 200 today, an extraordinary reduction of more than 80 percent. Under-five mortality has also shown dramatic improvement, declining by roughly 75 percent since independence, with an average annual decline of almost 4.5



longstanding commitment to equality and social justice. By reducing the rural-urban divide in access to quality maternal care, they ease the physical, financial, and logistical burdens that have historically placed women and newborns at heightened risk. Their role aligns directly with international human rights frameworks that increasingly recognize maternal mortality and morbidity as issues of gender equity and fundamental rights. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights affirms the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including the reduction of infant mortality and the healthy development of the child. Similarly, Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women obliges states to ensure equal access to health services and provide appropriate care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. These principles are echoed in the Sustainable Development Goals, which emphasize universal access to sexual and reproductive

health services and the removal of barriers rooted in inequality.

In this broader context, Eritrea's maternity waiting homes are far more than physical structures; they are powerful reflections of national values and commitments. They meet immediate maternal and newborn health needs while contributing to the construction of a more equitable and resilient health system. They support women not only as patients but as rights-holders entitled to safety, dignity, and consistent, high-quality care.

Ultimately, though they may at times go unnoticed, maternity waiting homes continue to play a pivotal role in Eritrea's health-related progress. They strengthen the national health system, advance women's rights, and safeguard the well-being of mothers and children nationwide. As Eritrea builds on its achievements in maternal and child health, its expanding network of MWHs stands as both a testament to past success and a cornerstone for future gains.

LOCAL NEWS

CONFERENCE TO ENHANCE ADULT EDUCATION



A conference to enhance and expand adult education was conducted in Mendefera, Southern Region, on 4 and 5 December. The conference was attended by the region's governor, sub-zonal administrators, and heads of education offices.

Reports on the progress of adult education from 2016 to 2025 were presented by the heads of education offices in the region's sub-zones.

Mr. Qaleab Tesfaselasie, Head of Social Services in the region, noting the importance of adult education in providing learning opportunities to those who could

not attend regular schooling due to various challenges, called for the resumption of evening education programs.

Mr. Tikuabo Aimut, Coordinator of Adult Education at the Ministry of Education, said the conference will significantly help identify shortcomings and challenges and design a five-year action plan.

Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the Southern Region, expressed the regional administration's readiness to ensure the successful implementation of the adult education program.

SpotLight

Simon Weldemikael

The Blueprint of Extermination: Ras Asrate Kassa's 1969 Letter

The history of the Eritrean War of Independence is characterized not only by battles between liberation fighters and the Ethiopian army, but also by systematic violence against civilians. The massacres of November 1970 in the villages of Ona and Besikdira, near Keren, were amongst the most heinous crimes committed against Eritreans. Hundreds of men, women, and children were slaughtered. These atrocities were not spontaneous acts of crime committed by Ethiopian soldiers. They were systematically executed in accordance with a policy articulated a year earlier, in a chilling letter from Ras Asrate Kassa, then Governor-General of Eritrea, to Major General Teshome Ergetu, commander of Ethiopian forces in the territory.

On June 18, 1969, Ras Asrate Kassa wrote to General Teshome Ergetu, redefining the Ethiopian regime's understanding of "bandits" — the term used to refer to the Eritrean liberation fighters. In the letter, he declared that *"Bandit refers not only to those who have rifles. It also refers to all the people who have contacts, sympathy with them [combatants/liberation fighters]; hence, I order you to take action wholly."* This directive was more than a military order. It was a political statement that blurred the line dividing combatants and civilians. By equating sympathy with combatants to armed resistance, the Ethiopian administration practically criminalized entire communities.

The letter reveals that the violence

against civilians was not accidental but planned. It demonstrates that the atrocities were not rogue actions taken by soldiers but authorized at the highest levels of governance. Collective punishment was routine and the norm of the day. Civilians were treated as enemies simply for their perceived sympathies, making whole villages subject to destruction. Through collective punishment, the Ethiopian regime sought to terrorize the population into submission and isolate the freedom fighters from their civilian base, but it did not succeed.

The letter emphasized that just as fish depend on water to live, insurgents could not endure without the backing of the broader population. The "Fish and Water" metaphor was borrowed from Mao Zedong's guerrilla warfare doctrine, where insurgents were described as "fish" swimming in the "sea" of the people. But while Mao used the metaphor to emphasize the importance of popular support for liberation movements, Asrate Kassa saw the people themselves as the problem. His directive implied that to defeat the "bandits" (the freedom fighters), the Ethiopian army must drain the water.

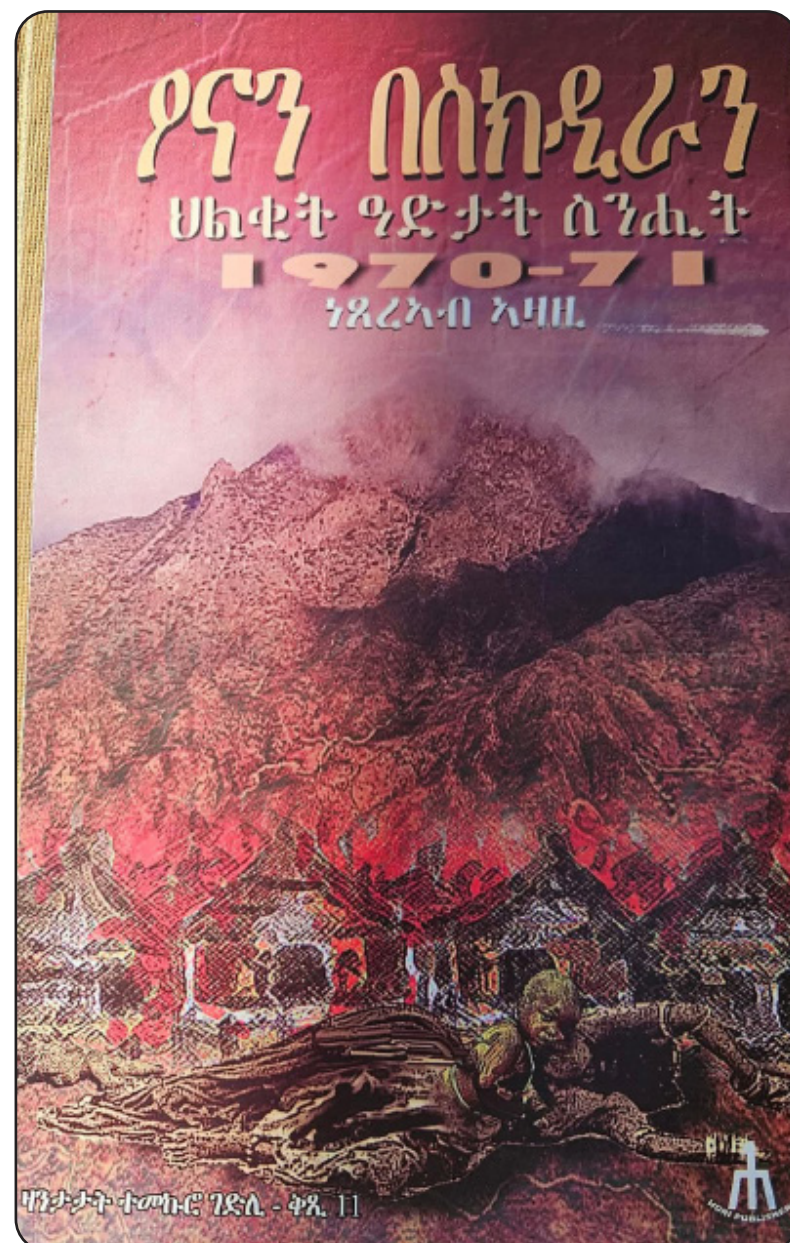
Shaleqa Dawit Woldegiorgis, a former Ethiopian officer who later defected, provides chilling testimony about how this directive was implemented on the ground in his book *The Red Tears*. He describes the brutality with which

the Ethiopian army treated civilians, burning villages suspected of harboring ELF fighters and stealing livestock. If one fighter was believed to have passed through a village, the entire community was subjected to reprisals. Dawit emphasizes that these actions were not isolated instances of misconduct but part of a systematic military strategy, sanctioned by commanders and political authorities.

The massacre of the Senhit villages in late November 1970 was directly tied to the assassination of Major General Teshome Ergetu, the Ethiopian army's commander in Eritrea. During a visit to Keren on 21 November 1970, freedom fighters ambushed and killed the General. The Ethiopian army then launched a campaign of collective punishment across the Senhit region. Civilians were killed, property destroyed, and survivors displaced. The campaign of killing and burning was designed to "drain the sea" of popular support, as Ras Asrate Kassa's 1969 letter had instructed.

In Ona, soldiers burned homes and killed the entire inhabitants of the village in a single day, making it Eritrea's worst one-day massacre. In Besikdira, villagers were forced into a mosque and gunned down; entire families were killed. In these two villages alone, around one thousand people were killed on 30th November and 1st December 1970. The massacres in the Senhit region were not limited to Ona and Besikdira. The Ethiopian army moved to other villages, killing civilians, burning homes, and destroying livelihoods. What makes Ona and Besikdira stand out in historical memory is the scale and method of the atrocities committed there. While the immediate trigger was the assassination of General Teshome Ergetu, the ideological and policy groundwork had already been laid in 1969. The massacres were, therefore, executions of Ras Asrate Kassa's directive to "take action wholly."

The Ona and Besikdira massacres remain etched in Eritrea's collective memory as symbols of suffering and resilience, while annual commemorations honor the victims. For Eritreans, these events underscore the human cost of their struggle for independence and the importance of remembrance. The 55th anniversary of the Ona and Besikdira massacre on Wednesday, December 4, in Keren is a pure and genuine remembrance. It is the act



of keeping memory alive, honoring those who suffered, and ensuring that their stories are not erased.

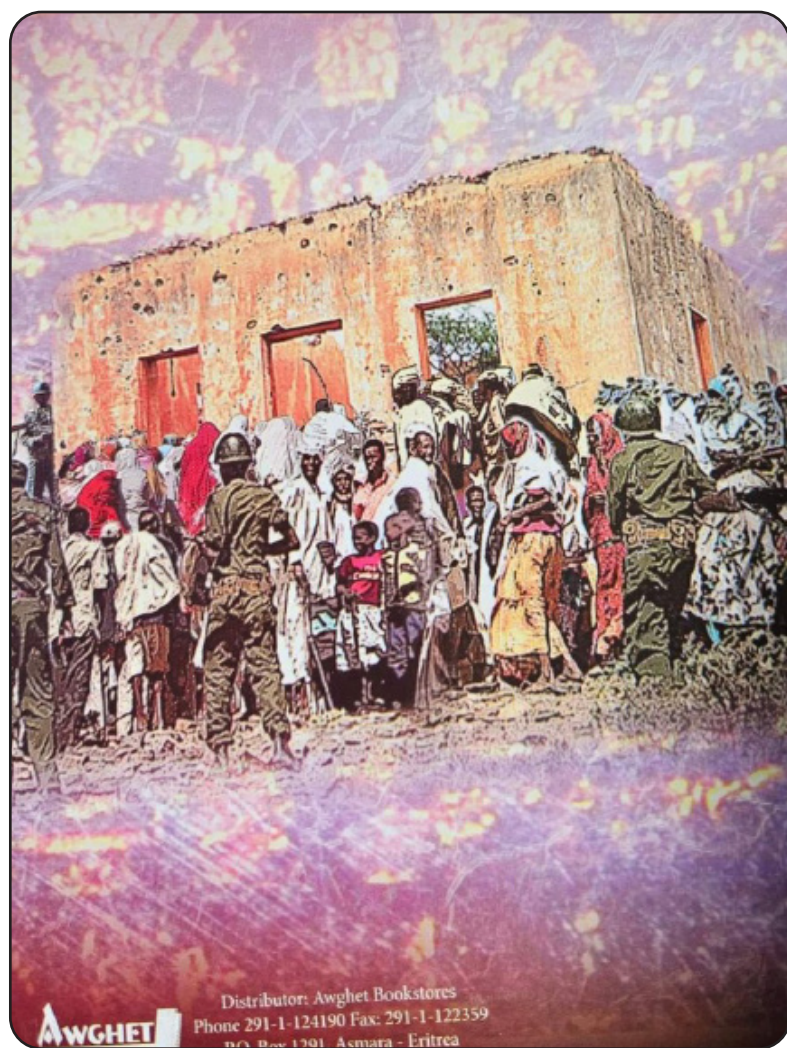
"Ona and Besikdira- the massacre of Senhit villages," a book written by Netsereab Azazi, serves both as a historical record and as a tribute to the victims. His work is significant because it combines documentation of the events with a moral call for remembrance and justice. The book emphasizes the human dimension where families were wiped out, communities destroyed, and survivors scarred for life. It is written not only as history but as a memorial, ensuring that the victims are remembered with dignity. The author frames the massacres as crimes against humanity. His narrative is an attempt to demonstrate that documenting these atrocities is part of the struggle for justice, ensuring that the suffering of Ona and Besikdira is not forgotten or denied.

At last, Eritreans are more than compensated for their suffering by Eritrea's independence. The massacres of Ona, Besikdira, the villages of Senhit, and other massacres elsewhere in the country remain scars on our collective memory. Still, they also stand

as proof of our resilience. When we say "we don't forget," it is not because we are waiting for revenge. It is because memory carries lessons. Independence was the answer to decades-long brutality, and remembrance is the safeguard against the resurgence of similar acts of crimes.

Those responsible for the heinous crimes committed against civilians in Eritrea must be willing to seek repentance. Genuine justice is found not merely in courts or formal agreements, but in the courage to face history with honesty, to admit past wrongs, and to pledge that such atrocities will never be inflicted again on any people.

The 1969 letter from Ras Asrate Kassa is a blueprint of extermination. By redefining "bandits" to include civilians, it legitimized mass killings and set the stage for the atrocities of November and December 1970. The massacres at Ona and Besikdira were not isolated acts of revenge but planned outcomes of a genocidal policy to "clear the ground" of Eritrean resistance. Remembering this letter and its consequences is essential to understanding the depth of Eritrea's struggle and the resilience of its people.



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AWGHET

Imperative of Paradigm Shift for Enduring Regional Peace and Stability

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entertained the intentions to woo the other side for a joint offensive against Eritrea. The ultimate objective was the resuscitation, in a new format, of the defunct “regime change” agenda against Eritrea that previous Ethiopian regimes had pursued in collusion with their external patrons.

The Potemkin Party’s agenda of regional destabilization was not confined to Eritrea. In January 2024, the regime signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland, whose full contents were never

divulged although it was known that the scheme involved trading “sea access” with Ethiopia’s recognition of Somaliland as an independent State.

These brazen acts were in flagrant breach of international law; the UN Charter, the AU Constitutive Act, as well as IGAD’s key tenets and principles. And as such it was widely condemned as an act of aggression against Somalia’s sovereignty with negative ramifications to regional peace and stability.

A growing body of research corroborate that external interventions have invariably

prolonged and exacerbated simmering conflicts in the Horn of Africa. The region’s strategic position along the southern Red Sea and Arabian Sea, its proximity to the oil-rich Gulf, and its closeness to the turbulent Middle East make it a magnet for foreign interference. UAE’s interventions these days is a case in point. The UAE, under the guise of investment in ports, oil services, and telecommunications, has advanced military agendas across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan, contributing to deadly conflicts, political fragmentation, and economic devastation.

Furthermore, the bleak reality in Ethiopia under the Potemkin Party

sharply contradicts the regime’s embellished official rhetoric. The party’s governance failures – marked by ethnic polarization, economic mismanagement (including soaring inflation, rising foreign debt, and widespread joblessness), spiraling conflicts, and grave atrocities, have deepened Ethiopia’s internal crises and eroded the Potemkin Party’s legitimacy. These failures expose the party’s political incompetence and its inability to build a platform for integration, economic self-sufficiency, and respect for human dignity.

In conclusion, the Potemkin Party lacks the moral or political standing to project its own

destabilizing behavior onto Eritrea. Rather than externalizing its domestic failures and stoking regional tensions, the PP should confront the root causes of Ethiopia’s internal and regional crises. Reliance on external actors while sidelining proven local and regional mechanisms only deepens divisions and imperils regional peace. Indeed, durable peace in the Horn requires mobilizing internal resources, strengthening regional cooperation, and minimizing foreign interference. The African proverb: “He who is carried on another person’s back does not know how far the journey is”, underscores the visceral pitfalls of structural dependency on external patrons.

COMMENDABLE EFFORT TO CONTROL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Commendable efforts are being exerted to control communicable diseases in Tserona sub-zone in collaboration with health facilities and the community.

As a result of sustained environmental sanitation activities and pesticide spraying conducted over the past nine months in 11 areas where malaria infections were reported, the prevalence of the disease has declined by over 60%. The report was made by Mr. Natnael Yemane, public health expert in the sub-zone.

Indicating that the prevalence of the disease can be prevented through clearing areas susceptible to mosquito breeding, Mr. Natnael called for the proper use of impregnated bed nets. He also called for timely visits to health facilities in case of experiencing symptoms of the disease.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE FORO SUB-ZONE

Residents of the administrative areas of Kumhole and Gudem-Lahazien in the Foro sub-zone have constructed additional classrooms at Lahazien Elementary and Junior School at a cost of approximately 200,000 Nakfa.

Indicating that the school, established in 1995 as an elementary school, was upgraded to a junior school in 2011, Mr. Mohammed-Ali Ahmed, Chairman of the School Committee, said that the construction of additional classrooms will significantly contribute to accommodating the growing number of students. He also said that the residents took the initiative to build the extra classrooms.

Mr. Osman Arafa, Administrator of the sub-zone, said that the initiative undertaken by the two administrative areas attests to growing public awareness of the importance of education, and he expressed the sub-zonal administration’s readiness to stand alongside their future endeavors.

Mr. Reshid Mohammed, head of the education office in the Northern Red Sea Region, commended the residents’ initiative and extended material support at the regional level.

YOUTH WORKERS’ TOUR TO HISTORICAL SITES

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, organized a tour for youth workers of the Ministry of Agriculture to historical sites in the Northern Red Sea Region. The tour was designed to acquaint youth workers with their history.

The 80-member youth group visited the areas where the Salina and Fenkil operations against the Ethiopian colonizers took place, the Ghindae front, and historical sites in Massawa, and received briefings from freedom fighters stationed in the areas. They also visited the Northern Red Sea Museum and the Abdur Organic Fertilizer Production Institution.

LOCAL NEWS

SEMINAR TO YOUTH WORKERS IN AFABET



Mr. Saleh Ahmedin, Chairman of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, conducted a seminar for youth workers in Afabet on 7 December focusing on the role of youth in the nation-building process.

Mr. Saleh, highlighting the role of Eritrean youth in various stages of the country’s history—including during the struggle

for national independence, safeguarding national sovereignty, as well as in the nation-building process—said that a country with conscious and organized youth has a bright future. He also expressed confidence that the youth workers will play an active role in the implementation of

future programs.

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed-Nur Rejib, Administrator of the sub-zone, noting the timeliness of the seminar, called on the youth to make a committed contribution to the implementation of the set-out development programs



TRAINING ON MENTAL HEALTH IN CENTRAL REGION

Training focusing on mental health was provided in the Central Region in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education. The training was conducted at Semaetat Secondary School.

The training was provided to 177 teachers, supervisors, and heads of education office branches

from the sub-zones of Gejeret and Geza-Banda in Asmara.

Mr. Misgun Yohannes, a nurse representing the Ministry of Health, said that the objective of the training was to enhance the role of teachers in nurturing students with healthy mental well-being, as well as to identify students who have psychological problems and



provide them with the necessary support.

Indicating that mental health issues are becoming one of the critical problems worldwide, Nurse Misgun called on teachers and parents to strengthen their relations and contribute their due part.





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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

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Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To manage and coordinate all day to day facets of the TMF load and haul operation.
- To effectively support the operational requirements in a safe and cost effectively manner.
- Knowledge transfer and mentoring is a must in this role to Engineers, Supervisors, Crew Leaders and all Operators.

Essential Functions

- Ensuring that project outcomes are met through a safe, effective with efficient utilization of resources (human and capital), in accordance with company objectives.
- Accountable for delivering individual and team production targets, coaching and mentoring the team members for continuous improvement.

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- Health, Safety and Environment
- People
- Productivity

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must have TMF construction experience
- Candidate must have the ability to understand designs criteria.
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Technical degree registered Engineer of Civil/ Mining ○ Certification from an internationally recognized engineering body	○ Minimum 10 years of continuous experience in a similar role within mining, engineering, or TMF construction ○ 5-10 years operational experience complemented with extensive experience as a Supervisor / Superintendent. ○ Significant experience in a mining environment. ○ Comprehensive Supervision and leadership skills ○ Able to understand priorities and utilize equipment to deliver outcomes as per the mine plan ○ Extensive experience as an all-round operator ○ Frontline Management ○ Supervisors Development Program
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Computer Literacy (Word, Excel, Power Point) ○ Good English written and verbal skills ○ Certificate for Trainer and Assessor ○ Problem solving and solution implementation ○ Frontline Management	○ Live and breathe Bisha Core Values ○ Interpersonal skills ○ Ability to work under pressure ○ Results oriented ○ Good interdepartmental communication ○ Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment ○ A commitment to safe work practices ○ Self-motivation and organisation and planning skills ○ Strong communication skills, written and oral ○ A willingness to transfer knowledge to a national workforce. ○ Ability to mentor the workforce

2. Position: Timberman
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To carry out underground service operations in accordance with mining safety and operational standards, ensuring the efficient and safe support of production teams and infrastructure.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Performance areas/goals
- Responsibilities
- Health, Safety and Environment

Unique requirements/other information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.
- Must be adaptable to challenging underground conditions.
- Must demonstrate initiative and a proactive approach to task completion.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Full grade 12 Certificate ○ Valid driving license ○ Certification for operating Manitou Telehandler and Scissor Lift etc. ○ Basic blasting operations training or certification	○ Minimum 7 years of experience in underground service operations ○ Strong understanding of underground service procedures ○ Experience assisting drilling teams (Jumbo, Solo) ○ Familiarity with ground support and reinforcement standards ○ Prior experience assisting blasting teams ○ Skilled in pipe connections, pump installation, fan and vent duct installation and repair
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Knowledge of underground service standards ○ Equipment handling and installation skills ○ Basic blasting operation knowledge ○ Measurement and repair proficiency ○ Planning and problem-solving skills	○ Strong work ethic and task completion focus ○ Ability to work under tough conditions ○ Safety and health compliance awareness ○ Willingness and ability to train new personnel ○ Self-motivated and results-oriented

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- **Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.**
- **Present clearance paper from current/last employer.**
- **Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).**
- **Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.**
- **Application documents will not be returned to sender.**
- **All applications should be sent through the post office.**
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

Address: Please mail your applications to:-
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to:
1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
2. Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
Tel. ++291-1-153986
Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position;

Health and Safety Coordinator

Number required – (05)

Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Assist in building, implementing and overseeing H&S programs and initiatives for Asmara Mining Share Company (AMSC).
- Coordinate HSE programs and activities, through the provision of critical Health, Safety and Environmental solutions to maintain constant safe work practices and conditions.
- Assist the Safety and Health Superintendent to develop and implement the mine safety management system inclusive of safety meetings, workplace inspections, pre-start information sections and inspections, event reporting/investigation and reporting of lead and lag indicators.

Health and Safety Management

- Communicate all Health and Safety procedures and protocols to the operations.
- Accept personal responsibility for the health and safety of every employee assigned to his/her supervision.
- Facilitate the development and review of H&S documents in accordance with AMSC standards and Eritrean regulations
- Facilitate and promote the adoption of new health and safety programs and practices.
- Lead audits, risk assessments, reviews, monthly H&S meetings and inspections.
- Provide technical expertise in investigation events to identify control failures, root causes and appropriate corrective actions to be taken.

Planning and Analysis

- Monitor, analyze and suggest improvement opportunities from leading and lagging indicators.
- Assists develop H&S business plans, in consultation with key stakeholders and as per the business needs and demands.
- Conduct needs analyses to develop or update training materials to parallel emerging HSE industry trends.

Execution

- Coordinate monthly inspections, lead monthly H&S meetings, conduct internal audits, coordinate event investigations, coordinate risk assessments, coordinate contractor onboarding process
- Coordinate housekeeping inspection program and safety representative program.
- Review of JHAs | Other unplanned / ad hoc projects
- Advise line management on safety issues.
- Follow up on departmental action and events close outs.
- Preparation of audits and inspection reports.
- Coordinating planned emergency drills at the respective areas.

Evaluation and Maintenance

- Oversee all document controls by forwarding updated and changed content for review and approval by the Superintendent and uploading onto a system.
- Support the development of a continuous improvement culture to ensure training and development remains a top priority for improving Health and Safety standards across Asmara Mine.
- Oversee the effective storage of records via electronic and hard copy means.
- Provide Progression feedback reports to the Superintendent and End User Management, as required.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents

- Bachelor’s Degree in a Science related programs
- Professional Competency Certificate in HSE or similar

Working Experience – Nature & Length

- Minimum of 6 years’ generalized experience in Health and Safety, with previous facilitation experience in the Mining, Oil or Construction industries, of which 3 years should be in a supervisory and/or coordinating capacity.

- Sound knowledge of technical and operational aspects of open cut and underground mining.

- Working knowledge in operation and risk associated with heavy mining equipment

Technical Skills

- Leadership skills in multi-disciplinary environment.

- Advanced training and strong facilitation skills.

- Strong stakeholder engagement skills.

- Strong training needs analysis, analytical and problem-solving skills.

- Strong communication (written and verbal) and interpersonal skills.

- Strong planning, organizing and prioritizing skills.

- Strong leadership and management skills.

- Strong coaching and mentoring skills.

- Attention to detail

- Sound decision making skills

- Plan, organize and execution skills

- Valid Driver’s License

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel

Behavioral Skills

- Approachable | Assertive | Customer Focused | Goal Oriented | Influential | Initiative | Leadership | Pro-Active | Reliable | Results Driven

- Communication (read, write and speak English)

- Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude

- Commitment to deliver on agreed targets

- Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills

- Well organized

- Commitment to nationalization of the workforce

General Information and other requirements:

- ☐ Place of Work: AMSC Site
- ☐ Type of contract: Indefinite Period
- ☐ Salary: As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- ☐ Address: Please mail your applications to;
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea

- ☐ Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:
Mineral Resources Management
P.O. Box – 272
Asmara

- ☐ Note to Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that the major shareholders of “Galaxy General Electrical Private Limited Company” in their extraordinary meeting conducted on 20h day of November 2025 have appointed Mrs. Feven Tewelde Yisehak as the manager of the company for unlimited period of time.

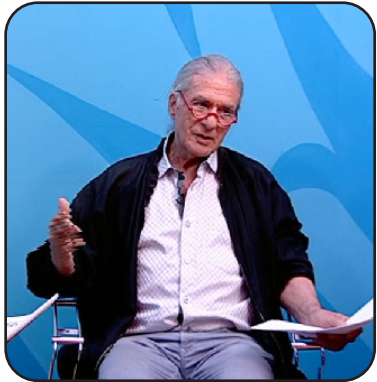
“Galaxy General Electrical Parts Private Limited Company”



“Wherever You Go, Go With Your Heart”

An Interview with Dr. Tony Locker and Isabella Maria Locker

By: Sabrina Solomon



Our guests today are Dr. Tony Locker and his wife, Isabella Maria Locker. A longtime friend of Eritrea, Dr. Tony has visited the country several times and has appeared twice on Eri-TV to discuss his humanitarian field trips to Barentu. A gynecologist by profession and an advocate for Eritrea by conviction, he returns to the country he has admired for decades—this time accompanied by his wife on her first visit.

Welcome, Dr. Tony.

Dr. Tony: Thank you so much for having me. Eritrea is a country with a long, remarkable history, and I am proud to be back at the age of 77. I'm grateful for the invitation to do this interview. My wife is here with me, and this is her first time in Eritrea.

Dr. Tony, let's begin with your early connection to Africa—and to Eritrea specifically.

Dr. Tony:

When I was born, my mother hoped I would one day become a priest. My father, however, was a poor peasant, and it was difficult for him to send me to school. Unlike in Eritrea, where education is free from kindergarten through college, we had to pay for education in Switzerland at the time.

My father sent me to a college run by the White Fathers—African missionaries—and that is where my interest in Africa began, around the age of 10.

Later, after studying medicine, I became very interested in the former Portuguese colonies. As a student, I attended a conference in Addis Ababa, met Eritrean students there, and even shook hands with Emperor Haile Selassie.

My interest in Eritrea grew the more I interacted with Eritreans.

I met them as students and taxi drivers. The stories they told drew me closer to the Eritrean armed struggle.

Then, in July 1977, just after the first liberation of Keren, I took my first trip to Mieda (the field). I met General Sibhat Ephrem and others, and we celebrated Keren's victory together. We visited Weki Zager, Keren, Afabet, and several other areas. It was an unforgettable experience.

I returned in October 1977 to do humanitarian work with SUCE (the Swiss Support Committee for Eritrea). Later, in 1987, I returned for the EPLF's second congress, where I met the then-chairman of the EPLF, and veteran Eritrean nationalist, Mr. Weldab Weldemariam. And in 1988, I got married in the field. They prepared cakes, flowers, traditional dances—so much joy—despite the bombs and war that continued the next morning.

What memories stand out from your days in the liberation struggle?

Dr. Tony:

So many. One vivid memory is visiting New Solomon, a refugee camp at the time, with Mrs. Askalu Menqerios. We spent time with the children—difficult days, but filled with warmth.

As a doctor, I was especially drawn to the medical efforts. I met Dr. Michael and Dr. Nerayo. Dr. Nerayo would operate all night long, pushing through exhaustion. Even amid hardship, we shared jokes and laughter.

And of course, May 24th. I heard the news of the liberation of Asmara on the radio. I jumped around my house waving an EPLF flag. The joy was indescribable.

SUCE played a significant role during the struggle and continues to work in Eritrea today. Tell us about its beginnings.

Dr. Tony:

SUCE began in 1977, focused on humanitarian aid. I remember the severe drought in Eritrea and Ethiopia around 1984. We collected one million Swiss francs on the streets to support

Eritreans.

After liberation, everything became easier. In 1993, after the referendum, The Swiss government began supporting reconstruction through SUCE.

In 1994 and 1995, we worked on major dam construction projects in Areza—key contributions to Eritrea's national rebuilding. Later, we expanded to solar energy projects, the Abraha Bahta School for the Blind, the school for the deaf in Keren, and others.

Isabella, how does SUCE secure funds for its support programs in Eritrea?

Isabella:

There were different phases. During the war, SUCE received government funds. Today, our funding comes mainly through our publication Eritrea in Four. We have sponsors, and we send the paper to inform them about our work.

We are not an NGO—we are a support committee. All of us are



volunteers. We bring together our skills and knowledge.

Our philosophy is simple: most of the money we collect should go directly to the Eritrean people. They know best what their communities need. Dr. Tony always says, “Don't tell them what to do—they know exactly what they need. Give them the means to realize their own ideas.” That is also the philosophy of SUCE.

Was it difficult to speak about

Eritrea during the struggle years, when the world was unwilling to listen?

Dr. Tony:

It was difficult, yes. But after 1984–85, the EPLF grew stronger—especially after the victory in Afabet—and it became easier to show the world that Eritreans could prevail.

Today, unfortunately, the narratives in Europe make it challenging again. But we continue.

One of SUCE's notable contributions is in alternative energy, particularly bio-gas.

Dr. Tony:

Eritrea is vulnerable to climate change, and the government's commitment to developing alternative energy sources—especially solar energy—is impressive. Bio-gas is a newer technology, and I'm pleased the government is embracing it.

Eritrea's reduced dependence on electricity is encouraging. Exploring new energy sources is essential in combating climate change.

Isabella, would you like to add anything?

Isabella:

Yes. We are working with war-disabled communities, beekeeping projects, and more. What I love about SUCE is that we don't just start projects—we build them on solid foundations. We work closely with experts.

Whenever we implement a project, beneficiaries receive

training from the Ministry of Agriculture. Eritreans combine knowledge with hard work, and that's how real change happens. Destruction is quick; building takes time.

And as I always say, “Wherever you go, go with your heart.” I see that many Eritreans truly do things from the heart. An idea without heart won't go far—but if you lead with your heart, the



people will support you.

Tell us about the SUCE focal person in Eritrea who recently passed away.

Isabella:

Werku was extraordinary—passionate, committed, and deeply knowledgeable. She worked closely with various sectors, including the NUEW, and helped us understand how best to support Eritrea.

She held a master's degree in gender studies and was dedicated to empowering women. She believed that when women earn money, their confidence grows—and she worked tirelessly for that cause.

Her passing was devastating. For us, she was like Mama-Eritrea—the wisest woman we knew.

Dr. Tony, what is the purpose of your current visit?

Dr. Tony:

This time, we came to visit various projects. There are so many, and we are proud to contribute through SUCE. Eritreans achieve remarkable things with even the smallest support.

We plan to return in 2027 to celebrate SUCE's 50th anniversary here in Eritrea.

Thank you both for your time.